SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

## BULGARIAN PROPAGANDA, MAY 1952

The following is a presentation of the main themes in Bulgarian propaganda for the month of May 1952 as found in Rabotnichesko Delo, daily newspaper, organ of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party. The propaganda has been divided into three large categories: a) Domestic b) Anti-West c) International Communist, and arranged within these categories in the order of their apparent importance to the Bulgarian Communist Party as judged by the amount of space and the prominence accorded them. Only those themes are included which were carried at least five days during the month.

Omitted in the tabulation are certain feature articles of the newspaper which appear more or less regularly each month, such as "In the Soviet Union", In the Peoples' Democracies" and "Party Life". It may be said that there was considerably less space devoted to these features in May than in April. Amplifying comment on some of the themes follows.

During May domestic news had the lion's share of space, about twice as much as anti-west and international communism combined. Anti-US propaganda suffered a drop in quantity compared to April (1,253 vs 828 column inches). Possible reasons are the fact that the four main domestic themes (see below) pushed much of the usual international news from the paper, and the fact that BW/CW propaganda dropped sharply in comparison to April (from about 800 to a little more than 100 column inches).

More than half the total space for May was devoted to domestic affairs. Poptomov's death competed for space with the May Day propaganda in the beginning of the month. Announcement of the monetary reforms with the abolition of rationing on May 11 occupied the complete issue for that day and was carried very heavily for a week or so afterwards, diminishing gradually toward the end of the month.

Preparatory propaganda of the Fatherland Front Congress began in modest proportions on 5 May and gradually increased, culminating on 29 May with a

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8-page issue of the newspaper virtually all of which was devoted to a complete reproduction of Chervenkov's speech. Coverage was still heavy at the end of the month.

May Day, Poptomov's death, the monetary reform, and the Fatherland Front Congress accounted for about three quarters of the domestic coverage.

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